

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 232635

61

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 SAM-01 /072 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:RDOTSON:MS

APPROVED BY EUR/WE - EDWARD M. ROWELL

AID/FJRC - MR. CLARY (SUBS)

OSD/ISA - MR. NELSON (SUBS)

AF/W - MR. RAMSAY

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O R 302012Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

SECDEF

JCS

USCINCEUR

CSAF

CSA

CNO

CMC WASHDC

MSC WASHDC

MAC SCOTT AFB ILL

CINCLANT

CINCRED MACDILL AFB

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E.O. 11652: NA

PFOR, EAID, SREF, AO, PO, IC

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SREF, AO, PO, IC

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN AIRLIFT - FUEL AVAILABILITY

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PAGE 02 STATE 232635

1. MOBIL OIL REP, NEW YORK, HAS INFORMED DEPT THAT THEY

ARE ABLE TO REFUEL U.S. AIRLIFT EFFORT IN ABIDJAN AT PRESENT LEVELS UNTIL ABOUT OCTOBER '15 BY CONTINUING TO DRAW OFF SURPLUS PRODUCTION OF GOVERNMENT REFINERY IN IVORY COAST. HOWEVER, U.S. UPLIFT OF FUEL WILL HAVE OUTPACED REFINERY PRODUCTION BY ABOUT OCTOBER 15 AND OUR AIRLIFT NEEDS WILL HAVE TO BE MET BY IMPORTING JET FUEL INTO THE IVORY COAST.

2. MOBIL NEEDS TO INITIATE LOGISTICAL STEPS NOW IN ORDER TO MOVE IN FUEL TO ASSURE UNINTERRUPTED AIRLIFT OPERATION. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE GOIC THAT THEY MUST FIRST HAVE A GUARANTEE THAT ALL FUEL IMPORTED WILL BE SUBSEQUENTLY LIFTED AND MOBIL HAS SOUGHT SUCH AN ASSURANCE FROM THE DEPT.

3. IT IS THE USG'S INTENTION RPT INTENTION TO CONTINUE THE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE AIRLIFT AT LEAST AT THE PRESENT LEVEL UNTIL ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE NOVEMBER 11. AN INCREASE IN OUR PARTICIPATION IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

HOWEVER, MOBIL APPARENTLY NEEDS A FIRMER ASSURANCE THAN THIS WHICH WE ARE UNABLE RPT UNABLE TO GIVE BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES IN THE ANGOLA SITUATION AND CONTRACTUAL EXIGENCIES. (PRESENT CONTRACTS WITH AIR CARRIERS EXPIRE OCTOBER 5. COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BE SURE SAME CARRIERS WILL GET NEXT CONTRACTS OR THAT OTHER CARRIERS WOULD NECESSARILY REFUEL AT ABIDJAN, ALTHOUGH THERE IS A STRONG PRESUMPTION THEY WOULD IF FUEL SUPPLIES CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE. NEW FUNDING WILL RUN TO APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER 25).

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT YOU CONTACT MOBIL OIL REP IN ABIDJAN ON URGENT BASIS TO FURTHER DISCUSS SITUATION TO DETERMINE HOW EMBASSY'S GOOD OFFICES WITH GOIC MIGHT BE EMPLOYED TO GAIN AGREEMENT TO A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. PLEASE REPORT OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS WITH MOBIL AND ANY TALKS WITH GOIC. PNGERSOLL

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